



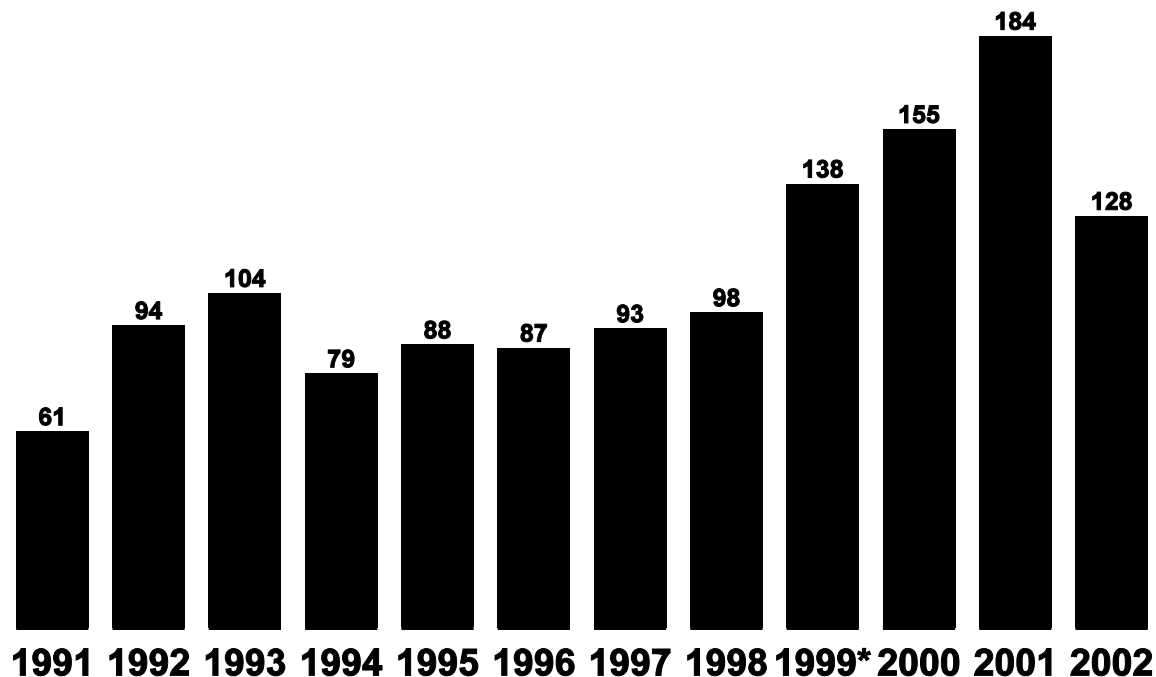
Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office 2002 Firework Injuries and Fires

The upward trend ended this year. Hospitals reported 128 firework-related injuries in 2002 - a 32 percent drop.

The severity of the injuries also decreased. One person hit by a missile rocket lost an eye, otherwise the majority of injuries were first and second-degree burns. Eyes continue to receive the most injuries followed closely by hands and fingers.

The following graph shows the number of injuries for the last 12 years.

Firework Injuries



*1999 total includes nine injuries during the millennium firework season.

Over 40 percent of the people were injured because they were in the vicinity of the firework when it went off. Thirty-three percent of the injuries occurred to people holding the firework when it discharged. Fortunately the number of people injured at public displays decreased from 16 in 2001 to 9. However, two of these injuries occurred to the people shooting the fireworks. Public displays are still the safest way to view fireworks.

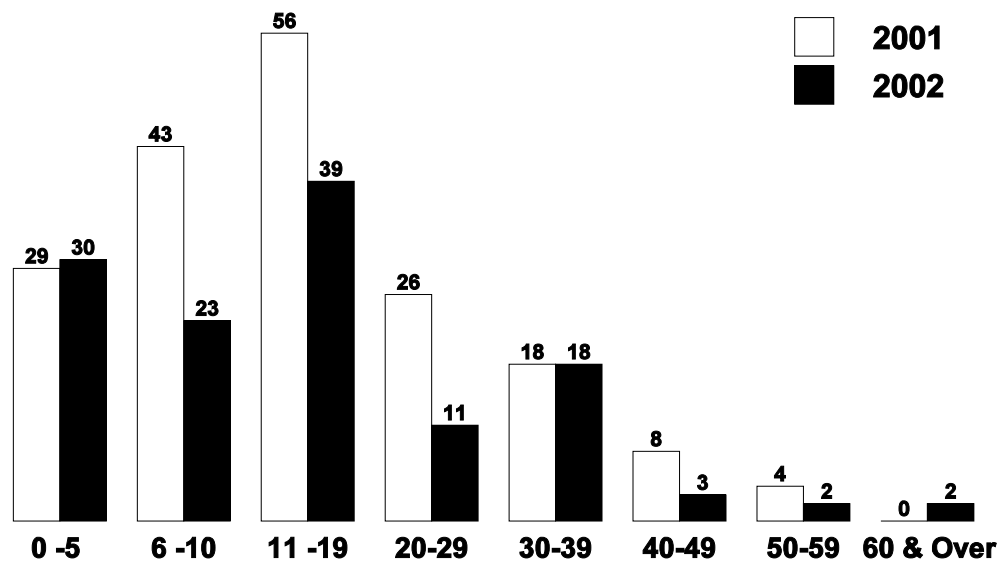
Firecrackers continue to cause the most injuries The number of injuries from illegal fireworks (M-80's; cherry bombs; bottle, sky and missile rockets) decreased 1 from 2001 to 15 in 2002. Injuries caused by homemade fireworks, e.g., taking apart firecrackers to make a larger firework with the gunpowder, continue an upward trend.

DEVICE	2001	2002	DEVICE	2001	2002
Firecracker	45	25	Cherry Bomb	2	1
M-80	3	7	Smoke Bomb	13	5
Base Fountain	10	4	Party Popper	1	1
Cone Fountain	2	1	Wheel	0	1
Roman Candle	22	15	Sky Rocket	0	2
Bottle Rocket	9	4	Missile Rocket	2	1
Parachute	3	1	Sparkler	14	12
Ground Spinner	6	0	Homemade	6	7
Other	27	16	Unknown	19	16

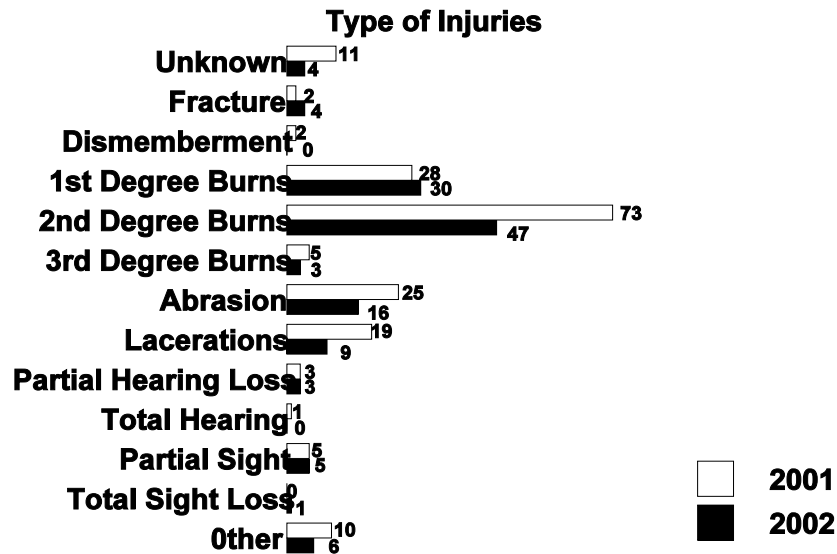
Children and young adults (age 19 and under) continue to receive the most injuries of any age group - 71 percent, up from 70 percent in 2001. Males (91) are almost three times as likely to receive injuries than females (36). The sex was not reported for one injury.

Firework Injuries

by Age

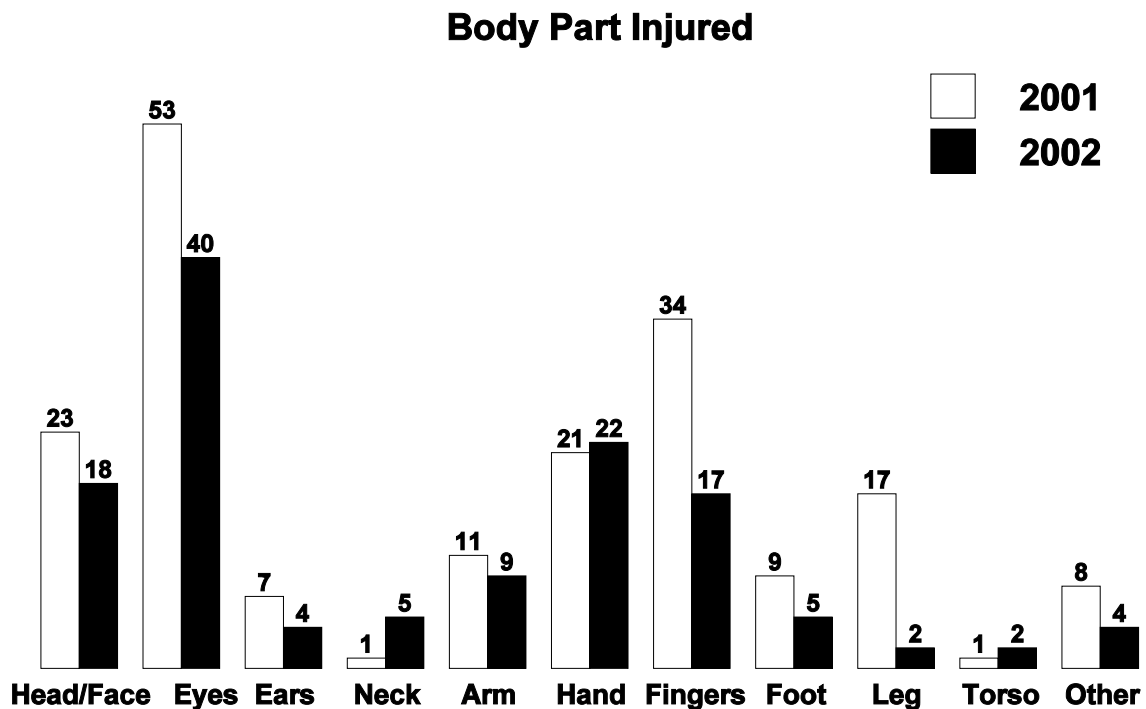


Firework Injuries



Eyes continue to be the most injured part of the body. Most eye injuries result from residue in the air after fireworks are shot off or from being struck in the eye with punk or fireworks, e.g., bottle rockets.

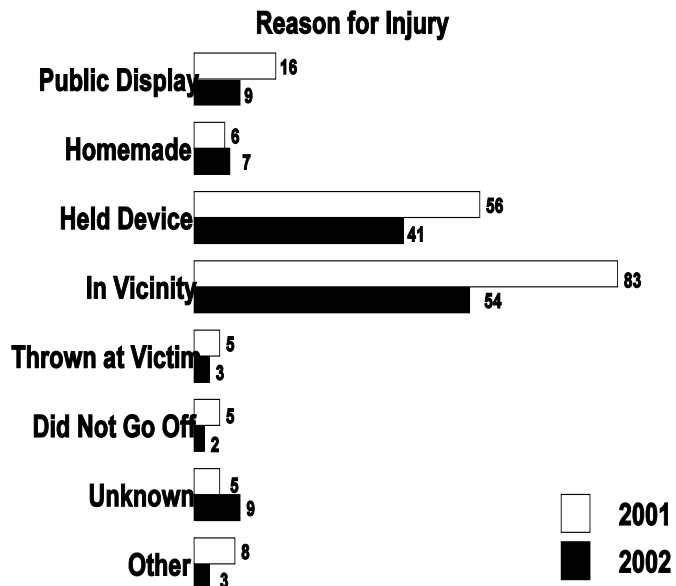
Firework Injuries



Other reasons for the injuries besides those mentioned earlier are listed below.

- * Fuse burned very rapidly before person could get away.
- * Glowing end of sparkler fell off and touched his skin.
- * Opening container of snaps when they went off.
- * Walked into lit punk.
- * Somebody aimed roman candle at car and sparks flew in window.
- * Fountain tipped over and sparks shot everywhere.
- * Holding firecracker in hand when it exploded.
- * Firecracker placed in metal casing before igniting it.
- * Pulled firecracker apart and caught clothes on fire.
- * Reached down to move firework before it went off.
- * Placed firecracker in plastic bottle which split open when firecracker exploded.
- * Holding 20 lit sparklers and burned fingers.
- * Stepped on sparkler.
- * Bottle rocket changed directions resulting in eye injury.
- * Combined a firecracker and cherry bomb.
- * Punk dropped onto firecrackers and they went off near hand.
- * Struck self in eye with punk.
- * Sparkler split and fell on patient.
- * Put crackling balls into a plastic bottle. Patient's hand was burned when the crackling balls exploded, possibly melting plastic into the hand.
- * Sitting in chair in own yard when struck by a bottle rocket.

Firework Injuries



PRELIMINARY FIRE LOSS INFORMATION

Few fire reports (required forms completed, not verbal reports) have been received from fire departments at this time. So far 8 fires have been reported with no dollar loss, injuries or fatalities. In 2001, 66 fires caused by fireworks were reported. Almost two-thirds of the fires involved grass and other vegetation. Only four were structure fires. These fires caused \$52,100 damage. No fatalities or injuries were reported in these fires.